

**PROPOSED SUPPRESSION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF
THE FAMILY-GROUP NAME "SEGUENZICERATIDAE" SPATH
(L.F.), 1924 (CLASS CEPHALOPODA, ORDER AMMONOIDEA)**

By **W. J. ARKELL**, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.

(Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge University, Cambridge)

(Commission's reference : Z.N.(S.) 931)

The object of the present application is to ask the International Commission to use its Plenary Powers to suppress the family-group name SEGUENZICERATIDAE Spath (L.F.), 1924 (*Pal. ind.* (n.s.) 9 Mem. 1) : 13 (type genus : *Seguenziceras* Levi, 1896). The grounds for this application are set out below.

2. In an application submitted in October 1950 I asked the Commission to give a Ruling on the question whether the reputed name *Arieticerias* Quenstedt, 1883, possessed the status of availability and therefore whether it invalidated the later name *Arieticerias* Seguenza, 1885. The question of principle involved was considered by the International Congress of Zoology at Copenhagen in 1953, and in the light of the decision then taken, the Commission has since ruled that *Arieticerias* Quenstedt, 1883, possesses no status of availability and consequently that the name *Arieticerias* Seguenza is not to be rejected as a junior homonym. In announcing this decision in *Opinion* 337 (*Ops. Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* 10 : 109—124) published on 17th March 1955, the Commission placed the name *Arieticerias* Seguenza on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*, at the same time placing the invalid substitute name *Seguenziceras* Levi, 1896, on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology*.

3. In September 1954 Mr. Henning, as Secretary to the Commission, informed me that it was desired to obtain decisions from the International Commission in regard to the family-group name aspects involved in any applications concerning ammonite nomenclature which had been published in May 1951 in Triple-Part 6/8 of volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*. In all except the present case the application of the rules adopted by the Copenhagen Congress made it possible to formulate recommendations which were in harmony with current nomenclatorial practice.

4. In the present case the difficulty arises from the unfortunate decision by the Copenhagen Congress that a family-group name is not to be rejected when the name of its type genus is rejected as being (as in the present case) a junior objective synonym of some other generic name (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 36, Decision 54(1)(a)). I have already protested

strongly against this decision (1954, *Geol. Mag.* **91** : 174, 410 ; 1955, *J. Paleont.* **29** : 188) which in my group and, as I now learn, in many other groups must, if applied, lead to the overturning of many well-known family-group names in favour of other names which have passed out of use completely. It is my strong hope that the next (Fifteenth) International Congress of Zoology, when it meets in London in 1958, will reverse the foregoing decision in favour of the long-established practice under which a change is made in a family-group name when it is found necessary to change the name of its type genus because that name is either a junior objective synonym or a junior subjective synonym of some earlier name. In the present case I consider that it would be ridiculous if there were to be an available name *SEGUENZICERATIDAE* in view of the fact that by the ruling given by the Commission that *Seguenziceras* Levi, 1896, is a junior objective synonym of *Arietoceras* Seguenza, 1885.

5. I therefore ask the International Commission :—

- (1) to use its Plenary Powers to suppress the family-group name *SEGUENZICERATIDAE* Spath (L.F.), 1924 (type genus : *Seguenziceras* Levi, 1896, a junior objective synonym of *Arietoceras* Seguenza, 1885) ;
- (2) to place the foregoing family-group name, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers under (1) above, on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology*.

**SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF A TYPE GENUS
FOR THE NOMINAL ORDER "AMMONOIDEA" ZITTEL, 1884**

By D. T. DONOVAN

(*University of Bristol, England*)

(Commission's reference : Z.N.(S.) 875)

(For the application submitted see 1955, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **11**(6) : 199—200)

(Letter dated 13th July 1955)

I am writing to support Dr. Arkell's request that the ordinal name *Ammonoidea* should be placed on the *Official List of Names in the Order-Class Group in Zoology*, with the type genus *Arietites* Waagen designated by him.